

*Prepared for the City Commission, February 4-17, 2016*

## City Manager

- ✓ The Alachua County Fairgrounds is transformed into a bustling medieval marketplace for the **30th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire, continuing for its final weekend Friday, Feb. 5-Sunday, Feb. 7**. Step back in time and cheer on jousting knights, wander through the medieval marketplace where hundreds of artisans sell their wares, witness a battle on the living chess board, partake in old world games and rides and feast on food fit for a king. Enjoy nine stages of entertainment where the forgotten skills of full-flight falconry, gripping aerial acrobatics and old-world magic come to life. Jugglers, knife throwers and gypsy dancers add to the excitement as they fill the streets of Hoggetowne. For more information call 393-8536 or visit [www.hoggetownefaire.com](http://www.hoggetownefaire.com).
- ✓ The Gainesville City Commission is **currently accepting applications for quasi-judicial and other advisory boards and committees**. [Applications](#) must be received by 12 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016. The following boards/committees currently have openings:

### City Residency Required

- Utility Advisory Board: (1) a representative of a major business (25 or more employees) that is a utility commercial customer; (1) a person with utility management experience; (1) a person with investment banking, financial or certified public accounting experience; (1) a licensed attorney with business, contract or corporate law experience; (1) a person with engineering experience and (2) two persons with any qualifications the City Commission deems relevant or beneficial to service on the board

### City Residency Not Required

- Utility Advisory Board (1)

- ✓ The Gainesville City Commission is **currently accepting applications for quasi-judicial and other advisory boards and committees**. [Applications](#) must be received by 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, 2016. The following boards/committees currently have openings:

### City Residency Required

- Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board (1)
- Board of Canvassers (1)
- Board of Trustees of the Consolidated Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan (1)
- Gainesville Human Rights Board (4)
- Historic Preservation Board (1) (A representative from one of the following areas: history; real estate, real property appraisal and/or finance; urban planning and/or law; engineering and/or building construction or landscape architecture)
- Regional Transit System Advisory Board (2)
- SHIP Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (7)

### City Residency Not Required

- Citizens' Advisory Committee for Community Development (5)
- City Beautification Board (3)
- Gainesville/Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board (2)
- Nature Centers Commission (1)
- Public Recreation and Parks Board (1)
- Student Community Relations Advisory Board (2) Non-voting post-secondary administrator (2-year term)
- Tree Advisory Board (2)

### Student Seats City Residency Not Required

- Fire Safety Board of Adjustment (1)

- ✓ Save the date for TEAM's [sixth annual casino night](#)! **Casino night will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20** at the City of Gainesville/Alachua County Senior Recreation Center, which is located at 5701 NW 34<sup>th</sup> St. Doors open at 6 p.m., gaming begins at 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is a combined effort with the United Way of North Central Florida and the IRS to help low to moderate-income working people keep more of their refund and not pay for income tax services.** Many lower-income households are owed a significant refund because of the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, a federal income tax credit for low to moderate-income working people. United Way officials are hoping to find more local residents who are eligible for the EITC by offering VITA, a free service. Residents can find out more about the free program, make an appointment and find out what to bring to the appointment by calling United Way's 24-hour information line 2-1-1.
- ✓ At the time of this publication, the **following special City Commission meetings/workshops have been scheduled:**
  - Monday, Feb. 8 at 5 p.m.: City Commission workshop about budget and strategic planning processes at Ironwood Golf Course, 2100 NE 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 8 a.m.: City Commission workshop with Charter Officers – Effectiveness in Office; the Roles of Commissioners and Charter Officers at Ironwood Golf Course, 2100 NE 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m.: City Commission workshop about budget and strategic planning processes at Ironwood Golf Course, 2100 NE 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.

## Capital Projects

- ✓ **Fire Station 1:** Station 1 is moving forward with an asbestos survey and report (\$10,673.09) for the building demolitions, awaiting GMP for site demolition and clearing from the construction manager and hope to begin site demolition by the end of this quarter (finishing by third quarter). The architect will begin the 30 percent drawings, waiting final approval of conceptual drawings.
- ✓ **West Sixth Street Trail Landscaping – Phase 2:** This project proposes to extend the recently completed landscaping along the Sixth Street Rail-Trail between Northwest Fourth Street and Northwest 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The limits for this phase of the project are between University Avenue and Northwest Seventh Avenue. Construction is expected in early 2016. For more information, please contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at [broadusm@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:broadusm@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **Northwest Eighth Avenue:** Asphalt paving of Section C (between Northwest 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Northwest Sixth Street) began, as scheduled, on Jan. 6, and is expected to be complete in early February 2016. Until completion, lane closures and slower traffic may be expected in this portion of the work. Section B (between Northwest 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Northwest 23<sup>rd</sup> Street) is in the final design stages and is expected to be under construction in late February 2016. Section A (between Northwest 40<sup>th</sup> Drive and Northwest 34<sup>th</sup> Street) is complete. For more information, please visit the [project website](#) or contact Stefan Broadus, project manager, at [broadusm@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:broadusm@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-393-8406.
- ✓ **Depot Avenue Segment 2:** The Southwest Sixth Street intersection has been closed by the roadway contractor, O'Steen Brothers, for construction of a roundabout with underground utilities, stormwater, streetscaping and landscaping. The intersection is currently scheduled to be opened Feb. 10, pending any further delays such as bad weather, etc. Both two-way vehicular and pedestrian traffic will be accommodated between Southwest Sixth and Southwest 11<sup>th</sup> Streets. Two-way vehicular traffic will be maintained east of Southwest Sixth Street to South Main Street. The contractor's contact person for this project is Don Shackelford, and he can be reached at 352-459-1031. For more information,

questions or comments, please contact John Veilleux, project manager, at [veilleuxj@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:veilleuxj@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-393-8418.

- ✓ **1125 SE Fourth Street:** Demolition and site cleanup began Jan. 7 for the nearly three-acre stormwater treatment pond that will be part of the future Southeast Fourth Street reconstruction project. The Southeast Fourth Street corridor is a residential road which serves existing local businesses and residents, and provides access from southeast Gainesville to the downtown area from Williston Road to Depot Avenue. Treatment facilities also include amenities appropriate for the adjacent rails-to-trails bike path and residential area. Demolition is slated to take place through February 2016; pond construction will commence in spring 2016. For more information, please contact [Betsy Waite](#), project manager, at 352-393-8405.
- ✓ **Beville Creek Restoration/Suburban Heights Stormwater Improvement Project:** The Public Works Department is hosting a public meeting Wednesday, Feb. 17 at the Millhopper Library, Room A, from 7-8 p.m. to discuss the upcoming Beville Creek restoration/Suburban Heights stormwater improvement project. The project will address the drainage concerns associated with the portion of Beville Creek that runs along the southwestern corner of the Suburban Heights subdivision into Cofrin Nature Park. In order to reduce erosion, provide a more aesthetic drainage corridor for residents and promote the health of the creek system, the City of Gainesville is progressing with an open channel design that will mimic the creek restoration project that took place downstream in Cofrin Park this past fall. It is anticipated that the construction will take place in the fall/winter of 2016. For more information, please contact [Betsy Waite](#), project manager, at 352-393-8405.

## Communications Office

**Communications Office contact: Bob Woods – 352-393-8627**

- ✓ The [2015 Citizen's Report](#) was released at the State of the City Address in mid-January. The report covers the highlights of the past fiscal year. If you wish to receive a hard copy, please email your request to [rawsonle@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:rawsonle@cityofgainesville.org).
- ✓ The grand prize winner of the Seventh Annual Gainesville Photography Contest was unveiled Jan. 20 at the State of the City Address. The **winning photograph is Rainy Night in Gainesville by Farol Tomson**. The **2016 calendar (pdf) is also available for downloading**. Photographs in the calendar are finalists of the Seventh Annual Gainesville Photography Contest. The pages are 8.5"x14" and a lightweight cardstock is recommended. Please note that since this is a printable calendar, the file size is large. To download the pdf, please [click here](#).
- ✓ Broadcast staff released the following, newly produced videos:
  - [The Defining Moment](#): The City of Gainesville's Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee on Economic Competitiveness submitted its findings to the City Commission. Committee members describe the process and how they arrived at The Big Idea: making Gainesville the most citizen-centric city in the world.
  - The [2016 State of the City Address video](#): Mayor Ed Braddy, interim City Manager Anthony Lyons and General Manager for Utilities Ed Bielarski spoke about the highlights from 2015 and laid out a vision for the continued success of Gainesville.
  - The [winners and finalists of the Seventh Annual Photography Contest](#).
- ✓ **Registration is open for Gainesville 101: Citizens' Academy.** Learn how Gainesville became one of the top-ranked cities in the nation. *Gainesville 101: The 2016 Citizens' Academy* will give residents a behind-the-scenes look at city facilities and allow residents to meet their city's leaders. This series of free classes is scheduled to begin Wednesday, March 9 and continue for seven weeks through April

20. Sessions are held from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. **Register now, as space is limited!** Please note, this will be the only time this is offered in 2016. For more information, the schedule of events or to register, please visit <http://academy.cityofgainesville.org>.

## Gainesville Fire Rescue

**GFR Risk Reduction Bureau contact: Interim Asst. Chief Steve Hesson – 352-393-8449**

- ✓ **Gainesville Fire Rescue can now be found on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!**
- ✓ **Project Get Alarmed helps those who cannot afford smoke detectors.** Applications are [available online](#) or by calling Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Ott at 393-8461.
- ✓ **Requests for car seat safety checks and installation** should be directed to GFR's Risk Reduction Specialist Krista Ott at 393-8461.
- ✓ GFR continues to host **crowd manager training** to enhance community safety. The cost is \$30 per person. For information on **Safe Assembly Training classes**, please call 334-5065.

**GFR Support Services Bureau contact: Interim Asst. Chief Mike Cowart – 352-393-8459**

- ✓ Gainesville Fire Rescue continues to provide **CPR and related course offerings to the community through its Operation C.A.R.E** or Citizens Aiding in Response to Emergencies. The program is being provided on a fee basis by the City Of Gainesville to increase the number of persons who can perform CPR, first aid and other skills during an emergency until help can arrive. For more information, please visit [gfr.org/community\\_training](http://gfr.org/community_training).

## Public Works

**Public Works contact: Chantel Thomas – 352-334-5070**

- ✓ **The American Public Works Association (APWA) conducted a re-accreditation site visit** for the Public Works Department Jan. 24-26. On re-accreditation, 116 practices deemed applicable to the agency from the Public Works Management Practices Manual, 8th Edition, were randomly reviewed and rated, and the department achieved full compliance on all practices. Of the 116 practices reviewed, **five were identified as innovative and progressive and recommended by the site visit team as model practices:**
  - 1.6 – Strategic Plan – the department's strategic plan and the city's use of statGNV in obtaining public participation in the strategic planning process
  - 2.14 – Training Personnel – the department's Progression Through Training Program (PTTP)
  - 8.1 – Comprehensive Multi-Hazard Emergency Plan – coordination and training with the University of Florida for stadium events and CSX for railroad exercises
  - 9.1 – Safety Responsibility – the department's internal Safety Team and Safety Review Program and Incentive Awards Program
  - 12.17 – Contract Documents – the department's use of APPIA software for bid analysis and status of bids

The **Public Works Department will be recommended for re-accreditation** to the APWA Accreditation Council, and continue its status as an APWA Accredited Agency.

- ✓ **Newly constructed roads Southwest 33rd Place and Southwest 30th Avenue are closed for ongoing construction.** For more information, please contact Rick Melzer, project manager, at [melzerra@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:melzerra@cityofgainesville.org) or 352-393-8407.
- ✓ The Public Works Planning Division will present a plan to submit for **Safe Routes to School funds to build a sidewalk in front of Metcalfe Elementary.** The presentation is Monday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. at the school.
- ✓ The **MTPO-Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** is a committee of various transportation related agency staff, advising the MTPO (a local transportation authority, tasked to advise the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on federally funded transportation decisions in our area). The TAC will meet Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 2 p.m. in the Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) General Purpose Meeting Room.
- ✓ The **Bicycle/Pedestrian Program will participate in the Partnership for Strong Families 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Partnership Health Fair** for the community, Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 12 p.m. at the Library Partnership, which is located at 1130 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- ✓ The Dori Saves Lives group presents the Florida Road Safety Week Fair at the State Capitol, serving as a **Teen Safety Summit for youth across the state. Alachua County teens will participate in this event,** to take place at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17 at the State Capitol. For more information, visit <http://dorisaveslives.org/>.
- ✓ Currently, the **2016 Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB) meetings** are on the following Thursdays: Feb. 11, March 24, June 16, July 21, Sept. 22 and Nov. 17 (subject to change). The meetings are at 7 p.m. on the second floor of the Alachua County Administration Building (12 SE First St. in Gainesville) in the Grace Knight Conference Room. Stay updated on BPAB information at [www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped).
- ✓ The **Bicycle/Pedestrian Program is coordinating/participating in the following:**
  - Friday, Feb. 5: Bicycle helmet safety presentation and fitting for a third grade class at Forest Lake Elementary

**Consider the Bicycle/Pedestrian Program for your next meeting, community event or training.** They provide bicycle and pedestrian-related presentations, demonstrations, videos and trainings for toddlers, youth, teens, young adults, adults and seniors. For more information, scheduling a bicycle/pedestrian event, questions or volunteer opportunities, please contact Dekova Batey, bicycle/pedestrian program coordinator, at 352-334-5070 or [bikeped@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:bikeped@cityofgainesville.org), or visit [www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped).

- ✓ The **Community Traffic Safety Team (CTST) Program** is a volunteer organization made up of community representation from citizens, agencies and groups such as public works, law enforcement, fire departments, school board, health department and many others. The CTSTs are sponsored by the Florida Department of Transportation with the mission of helping to reduce crashes and improve safety on area roadways. Through events, information, ongoing programs and education, team members work together to develop solutions to local traffic safety problems. The **Alachua County CTST meets the third Thursday of every month** (excluding July and December). The CTST Program will coordinate the following meeting:
  - **Thursday, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m.:** CTST meeting at Santa Fe College Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) (2153 SE Hawthorne Road)

For more information on the group or to submit a traffic safety concern, visit the group website at <http://trafficsafetyteam.com/>.



## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

### Partnership and Development contact: Alicia Antone – 352-393-8524

- ✓ Join us Friday, April 29 for a **Golf Scramble to support parks, recreation and cultural programs through the GAP Foundation**. There is a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The cost is \$80 per golfer or \$300 per foursome. The event is at Ironwood Golf Course, 2100 NE 39th Ave. Stop by the Pro Shop to register or call 352-393-8500 with any questions.

### Athletics and Aquatics contact: Jeff Moffitt – 352-393-8732

- ✓ PRCA is pleased to offer two new sports for adult athletic leagues. **Adult Coed Basketball** will feature two divisions with 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 teams, and the **Adult Coed Volleyball** will have a competitive and recreational league. Each sport is offered for those 18 years and older, with games starting in March. For fees, registration dates, required forms and more, please visit the [Adult Athletics Web page](#).
- ✓ **Basketball for All is a free, adaptive program** is offered through a partnership with the non-profit corporation Noah's Endeavor, Inc., for children with special physical and developmental needs. The program teaches children to be comfortable on the court, while they have fun and learn important safety skills. For additional information, please contact Noah's Endeavor at 352-275-9639 or [info@noahsendeavor.org](mailto:info@noahsendeavor.org) or visit their website at [www.noahsendeavor.org](http://www.noahsendeavor.org). Basketball for All is offered at the MLK Multipurpose Center (1028 NE 14<sup>th</sup> St.) the remaining Sundays from 2–4 p.m.: Feb. 7 and Feb. 14. Registration is available on site.
- ✓ **Baseball for All is a free, adaptive program** is offered through a partnership with the non-profit corporation Noah's Endeavor, Inc., for children with special physical and developmental needs. The program teaches children to be comfortable on the field, while they have fun and learn important safety skills. For additional information, please contact Noah's Endeavor at 352-275-9639 or [info@noahsendeavor.org](mailto:info@noahsendeavor.org) or visit their website at [www.noahsendeavor.org](http://www.noahsendeavor.org). Baseball for All is offered at Westside Park, Ball Field #3 (1001 NW 34<sup>th</sup> St.) the following Sundays from 2–4 p.m.: Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 6, March 20, April 3, April 10 and April 17.
- ✓ **Spring Adult Softball** registration continues through Thursday, March 10, for adults age 18 and older. This is a great way to make friends, create comradery with coworkers and have fun! Register in person at PRCA's Administrative Office at the Thomas Center, located on the third floor of Thomas Center B, 306 NE Sixth Ave. Fees, mandatory meeting dates and all other information is available on the [Adult Athletics Web page](#).
- ✓ Starting **Saturday, Jan. 9, the Northeast Pool will be closed for approximately six weeks** to repair the vinyl liner. Updates on the status of this repair/replacement project will be posted on the city's website. For additional information, or for any questions or comments, please contact Recreation Supervisor Jeff Moffitt at 352-393-8732 or [moffittjc@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:moffittjc@cityofgainesville.org).

### Environmental Education contact: Sally Wazny – 352-334-3326

- ✓ **Take the challenge to protect Gainesville's natural areas!** The Gainesville Greenway Challenge is a year-round effort whose aim is to restore natural habitat in Gainesville by removing invasive non-native plant species that threaten an ecosystem's health. Join the challenge and help us to eradicate the region's most aggressive invasive plants in Gainesville's nature parks! Groups or individuals can sign up for the Gainesville Greenway Challenge by registering on its [website](#). For more information, contact [gngreenwaychallenge@gmail.com](mailto:gngreenwaychallenge@gmail.com) or call 352-393-8428.
- ✓ **Environmental education programs resume at Morningside Nature Center!** The free, educational and fun-filled programs at Morningside Nature Center start in September and continue through May!

- C'mon home to the Living History Farm and experience a time when the rooster's crow and the rising sun, not an alarm clock, welcomed a new day! During **Living History Days**, interpreters portray day-to-day life on an 1870 Florida farm. Living History Days take place the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The farm is open to the public from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday all year long. The remaining Living History Days dates are Feb. 6, March 5, April 2 and May 7. Step back in time, enjoy nature, and experience Florida as it was!
- Morningside Nature Center has a farm, ee—i—ee—i—oh! On this farm, youngsters (with an adult) can meet and greet farm animals by helping staff with afternoon feeding on the Living History Farm. This program is free, but the animals love donations of carrots, squash, apples, sweet potatoes, and melons (please give these items to a staff member and not directly to the animals). With a sheep here—and a cow there—learning about heritage breeds is fun! The **Barnyard Buddies Program** takes place Wednesdays at 3 p.m. at the Living History Farm.
- At the **Frogs and Friends Friday** program, children (with an adult) can join a Morningside Nature Center animal caretaker for an exciting and educational program featuring live amphibians and reptiles. Join the fun, get the facts! This free program begins at 2 p.m. in the Education Building. The remaining Frogs and Friends Friday dates are Feb. 5, March 4, April 1 and May 6.

Morningside Nature Center is located at 3540 E. University Ave., approximately three miles east of downtown Gainesville. For more information, please call 352-334-3326.

**Recreation Contact: Ben Dillard- 352-393-8192**

- ✓ The **Lincoln Estates Neighborhood Association is hosting a block party at the T.B. McPherson Recreation Center Monday, Feb. 8 from 3–5 p.m.** The purpose of the event is to increase awareness of the University of Florida Mobile Health Clinic that is in the neighborhood every week. The UF Mobile Clinic is a full-service medical facility, and is free of charge; the clinic will be doing health screenings on site. The block party will include activities from the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department, GPD, Aces-in-Motion and other organizations.
- ✓ **Out of School Days is available Monday, Feb. 15.** During the day camp, kids enjoy games, activities and crafts that encourage achievement, a sense of community, good health and strong character! The camp is offered in conjunction with the Alachua County School Board Calendar. The cost is \$5.75 for city residents and \$8.75 for non-city residents (proof of residency is required). The camp is offered from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. at the following locations:
  - For **1st–5th Grades:** **Albert "Ray" Massey Recreation Center** - 1001 NW 34th St.
  - Eastside Community Center** - 2841 E University Ave.
  - For **6th–8th Grades:** **T.B. McPherson Center** - 1717 SE 15th St.

**Cultural Affairs contact: Russell Etling – 352-393-8532**

- ✓ PRCA, in cooperation with Shakerag Culture Center, Inc., is pleased to announce upcoming **Jewel Box Concerts at the Historic Thomas Center**.
  - **Atlantic City Boys: Thursday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.).** Tickets are \$20 at the door (cash or check only, please) or can be purchased online, in advance, with a credit card for only \$18 at <http://bpt.me/2497396>. The Atlantic City Boys bring a blast from the past! Relive the experience of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. The Atlantic City Boys' show is a tribute to them and several of the other classic vocal groups. The show is presented with personality, charm and great vocal talent. The Atlantic City Boys are four dynamic lead singers who have wowed audiences at Las Vegas, Walt Disney World and, of course, Atlantic City! Now they lend their world class vocals to

the rock-n-roll harmonies of the '60s -singing the hits of The Drifters, The Beach Boys and, of course, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. The Atlantic City Boys encourage flash photography, wild screaming and rushing the stage during their performances. So get ready to clap and sing-along because here they come!

- **Notorious Folk in Concert – “Through Many a Land”**: **Thursday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)**. Tickets are \$15 at the door, cash or checks only, please. Lauded as "sparkling" and "exhilarating," Notorious musicians Eden MacAdam-Somer and Larry Unger present a thrilling musical experience in genres that span many continents. With Eden on fiddle and vocals and Larry on guitar and banjo, their music lights up the hall with rhythm and sonority. Their performances are always new and exciting, featuring traditional American, Celtic, and Eastern-European tunes and songs, swing, blues, classical music and the group’s original compositions. Notorious Folk in Concert is sponsored by PRCA and the Gainesville Old-time Dance Society.

The Historic Thomas Center is located at 302 NE Sixth Ave. in Gainesville. For additional information, please contact Russell Etling, cultural affairs manager, at 352-393-8532, or contact Joseph Saccocci, Shakerag Culture Center, Inc. vice president, at [jsaccocci@cox.net](mailto:jsaccocci@cox.net) or 352-373-5514.

- ✓ In February 1856, the ground now known as Evergreen Cemetery received its first burial from the newly-named community of Gainesville, Florida. To commemorate this historic date, the **Evergreen Cemetery Associates, Inc. along with PRCA, will host a ceremony dedicated to the history of “This Wondrous Place” Sunday, Feb. 21**. The event will focus on the Babyland Renewal Initiative, which strives to place simple memorials on the unmarked graves of infants. The commemorative event begins at 2 p.m., and will also include history talks on James T. Thomas, Evergreen’s founder, and on Dr. Sarah Robb. There will walking tours lead by historian and association president Burton J. "Jimi" Brown, PhD. Music will be performed by Beverly Smith and John Grimm, with Chuck Levy adding to the experience, noting Evergreen Cemetery as an important cultural and community landmark. Evergreen Cemetery is located at 401 SE 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. For more information, please visit [www.ThisWondrousPlace.org](http://www.ThisWondrousPlace.org).
- ✓ A **Social Media Seminar Workshop** will be conducted by VisitGainesville and the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department. Two sessions (10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.) will be offered **Tuesday, Feb. 23 in the training room of the Old Library Building**, located at 222 E. University Ave. It will be led by Visit Gainesville’s Director of PR and Marketing, Mary Reichardt. The seminar will be primarily for Tourist Product Development grant recipients, but is open to local businesses and organizations. To reserve a seat or for more information, please contact VisitGainesville at 352-374-5260.
- ✓ On Friday, Feb. 26 from 4-7 p.m., there will be a **ribbon-cutting to celebrate the colorful transformation of historic downtown Gainesville** at Lot 10. **352walls/The Gainesville Urban Art Initiative** features the work of 13 internationally accomplished muralists and 13 of the region’s best artists, as well. The first phase of the initiative was completed in November. Artwork has continued through January with the Ukrainian Duo Interesni Kazki. Throughout the month of February, the Portuguese artist Add Fuel will be painting multiple public artworks to complete the first phase of the project. The ribbon-cutting will also be a part of the 352Creates initiative spearheaded by the UFHealth Arts in Medicine program. Guests will be encouraged to join in fun, participatory, creativity activities including a large “sing-a-long.” Following the event will be a tour of the murals in conjunction with ArtWalk Gainesville, as well as the 352Creates initiative. Lot 10 is located on the corner of Southwest Second Avenue and Southwest Second Street.
  - Facebook [www.facebook.com/352walls](http://www.facebook.com/352walls)
  - Twitter [@352walls](https://twitter.com/352walls)
  - Instagram [@352walls](https://www.instagram.com/352walls)



- ✓ **Thomas Center Galleries:** *ANIMA UNVEILED The Self* by Emanuel Torres Pérez is in the Thomas Center's Main Gallery Friday, Jan. 15–Tuesday, March 15. This is a solo exhibit of introspective and conceptual self-portraiture by an award-winning, young Puerto Rican artist, which features contemporary works of multimedia drawings, paintings and prints. The event is free and open to the public. **The ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Visual Arts Program Showcase (K-12)** is in the Thomas Center's Mezzanine Gallery Saturday, Jan. 16 – Saturday, Feb. 20.

## Housing & Community Development

**Housing & Community Development contact: Jackie Richardson – 352-334-5026**

- ✓ **Applications for agencies seeking Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) or HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds** through the City of Gainesville for FY16-17 are available for pick up beginning 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2. The applications are also available online at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/HousingCommunityDevelopment/BlockGrant.aspx>. For the CDBG Program projects, there is a required minimum threshold of \$10,000. Funding will cover the budget period of Oct. 1, 2016 through Sept. 30, 2017. Applications must address one or more of the following City of Gainesville CDBG and HOME funding priorities:

- Housing
- Homeless assistance
- Job training/employment opportunities
- Nutritional support
- Programs that serve disadvantaged or at-risk children or elderly persons

The **deadline for submittal is Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 5 p.m.** Applications should be submitted to City of Gainesville - Housing & Community Development Division, room 245 of Thomas Center B, 306 NE Sixth Ave. Please contact Deneace Joshua at 352-393-8864 for more information.

- ✓ The Block Grant Division is conducting **an optional workshop for prospective CDBG and HOME applicants** Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 9–10 a.m. in the City Hall Auditorium, located at 200 E. University Ave. Please contact Deneace Joshua, at 352-393-8864 for further information.
- ✓ HCD staff will attend and **make a presentation at the monthly Fifth Avenue Neighborhood Association Meeting** Tuesday, Feb. 9. The meeting will be held at the Santa Fe College Downtown Blount Center, conference room B from 6–7 p.m. For more information, please contact the HCD Division at 352-393-8618.
- ✓ The Housing & Community Development Division will **participate in the Alachua County Affordable Housing Summit Tuesday, Feb. 16.** The summit will run from 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. at the Community Support Services Department/Health Department, 224 SE 24<sup>th</sup> St. For more information, please contact the HCD Division at 352-393-8618.

## Economic Development & Innovation

**Economic Development & Innovation: contact Erik Bredfeldt – 352-393-8614**

- ✓ On Wednesday, Feb. 3, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend a meeting of the community Entrepreneurial Roundtable** at Santa Fe's CIED center.

- ✓ On Thursday, Feb. 4, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will attend a **First-Step involving a proposed multi-story, mixed-use building on University Avenue.**
- ✓ On Monday, Feb. 8, a **tentative pre-bid meeting is scheduled for licensing of parking spaces at city Lot # 2 and associated redevelopment.**
- ✓ On Thursday, Feb. 11, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend the annual Gainesville Realtor's Forum.**
- ✓ On Wednesday, Feb. 17, the Economic Development & Innovation Director will **attend the GTEC semi-annual review meeting.**

## Gainesville Police Department

**Gainesville Police Department contact: Officer Ben Tobias – 352-393-7525**

- ✓ The [Gainesville Police Department Community Calendar](#) provides information on crime watch meetings and other community meetings, such as the Black-on-Black Task Force. Please view the calendar for meeting dates and locations.

*The next report will cover February 18-March 2, 2016. Items for submission to the report are due to the Communications Office no later than Thursday, February 11. For more information, please contact [Laura Rawson](#) at extension 8740.*